

Gulf of Mexico Alliance Habitat Conservation and Restoration Team (HCRT)

- Develop, facilitate and assess the implementation of the Gulf Regional Sediment Management Master Plan (GRSMMP) to provide for more effective use sediment resources for habitat conservation and restoration
 - Provide guidelines for RSM implementation
 - Recognizing sediment is part of a regional system involving natural processes
 - Consideration of dredging activities
- Federally led effort intended to provide guidance to Gulf States
 - Federal co-leads: USACE & USGS
 - EPA, NOAA, USFWS, MMS
 - Also involvement from state reps



Goals

- Develop understanding of sediment system dynamics towards management of sediment resources
- Recommend streamlined approach for regulatory and policy processes that considers environmental restoration issues
- Facilitate effective sediment management across political boundaries
- Inventory available sediment resources and needs
- Promote information exchange about Gulf region sediment resources and related management needs
- Encourage stakeholder participation in development and implementation of sediment management strategies

Team Activities

- Monthly Conference Calls
- Workshops
 - Scientific Assessment Workshop (Dec. 2006)
 - Identify existing information about sediment sources, their availability and characteristics
 - Mobile, AL (March 2007)
 - Develop a strategy to elevate and motivate the regional master plan
 - Alliance Workshop St. Petersburg, FL (July 2007)
 - Identify issues associated with existing policies and authorities
 - Ecological Considerations New Orleans, AL (March 2008
 - Introduce the topics of Ecological Aspects of Regional Sediment Management
 - Develop TOC for first draft of GRSMMP

Focus Areas

Sediment Resources

- Sediment Budgets Sediment budget and related process information
- Sediment Inventory Compile information about existing studies and programs; sediment availability; characteristics, etc.
- Dredging Activities Assemble Corps and other dredging information into database

Ecological Components of RSM

- Understand affects of sediment management on ecological processes
- Consider relationship of processes on ecological resources

Data/Information Management

- Priority Habitat INformation System (PHINS) being developed by NOAA, USGS, & USACE - Identified as platform for GRSMMP information dissemination
- GIS tools

Policies, Authorities, and Funding

 Provide recommendations to provide more flexibility in policies, authorities, and funding mechanisms to facilitate RSM approach



- First draft of GRSMMP
 - August 2008
 - Based outputs from focus areas
- Consideration of additional focus areas recently identified
 - Economic considerations of RSM
 - Social considerations of RSM
- Continue development of products
- Define milestones and schedules